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**Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta**

# **Provincial Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime**



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## Executive Summary

The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the CISA Bureau, its executive, and Alberta Justice with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta.

From January 8, 2001 to January 24, 2001 Research Innovations Inc. completed a total of 1215 telephone interviews with Alberta citizens 18 years of age or over by trained and experienced telephone interviewing personnel.

Organized crime is most frequently viewed as being involved in drug related activities – namely trafficking and importing.

Crimes most often associated to white collar or corporate crimes (credit card fraud, cheating on the stock market, illegally disposing of dangerous waste) were less likely to be identified as definite examples of organized crime.

Sexual exploitation of children, while not necessarily viewed as an example of organized crime, is perceived to be the most serious criminal activity of those identified.

The majority of respondents believe there to be an increase in the amount of organized crime in recent years.

The young and the elderly were identified as the most vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondents believe that their local police agency deals effectively with organized crime.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Asian-based crime are perceived to be the most active examples of organized crime operating in the province of Alberta.

Getting more police officers and tougher sentences were seen as the most effective way to deal with organized crime.

## Executive Summary

The goal of the 1997-1998 Public Opinion Survey was to provide the U.S. Congress, the Executive, and the public with information on the current level of support for the United States and the role of the United States in the world.

This survey, conducted in January and February 1998, found that the majority of respondents (60%) are in favor of U.S. leadership in the world, and 55% are in favor of U.S. leadership in the Pacific region.

Opinion on the U.S. role in the world is generally positive, but there is a growing concern about the U.S. role in the Pacific region. This concern is based on the U.S. role in the Pacific region, which is seen as a threat to the stability of the region.

China's most often cited criticism is its role in the Pacific region, which is seen as a threat to the stability of the region. This concern is based on the U.S. role in the Pacific region, which is seen as a threat to the stability of the region.

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The majority of respondents (60%) are in favor of U.S. leadership in the world, and 55% are in favor of U.S. leadership in the Pacific region.

The survey and the study were conducted by the U.S. Congress, the Executive, and the public.

Survey and study (T-1) of respondents before and after the survey.

China's most often cited criticism is its role in the Pacific region, which is seen as a threat to the stability of the region.

Overall, opinion on the U.S. role in the world is positive, but there is a growing concern about the U.S. role in the Pacific region.

Leading news sources of the survey and the study were conducted by the U.S. Congress, the Executive, and the public.



## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Why Public Opinion Surveys?**

In order to serve a range of public and government interests, the Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta needs to be well informed about the public's views and perceptions regarding organized crime. The intent of the 2001 Public Opinion Survey On Organized Crime was to explore the current public perception of serious and organized crime and assess the degree of any change in perception that might exist from last year's results.

Results from a 1999 Alberta Justice survey show that the majority of Albertans obtain their crime news from newspapers, television and radio. These sources of information, according to the survey results, were perceived to be accurate reflections of actual criminal activity. In light of these findings, we should be reminded that the public's perceptions of organized crime are not necessarily based on experiential knowledge, but diffused through a media spin on reality and thereby might include some inaccurate stereotypes and misinformation. The 1999 Alberta Justice survey found that more educated respondents more critically evaluate both the medium and the message.

Very few polls have addressed the issue of organized crime and serious crime in Canada. The Department of the Solicitor General conducts a national survey every few years and other than the Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime of last year no others specifically relate to organized crime in the Province of Alberta. Those that have explored the topic from a national perspective have shown that the public's conception of what constitutes organized crime does not necessarily correspond to reality. The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the CISA Bureau, its executive, and Alberta Justice with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta.





## 2. Methodology

The data collection component of the survey was contracted out to *Research Innovations Inc.*, while the report-writing phase of the survey remained within the CISA Bureau.

The survey was conducted in three distinct phases:

- 1 : Orientation, Questionnaire Design and Sampling
- 2: Telephone Interviews
- 3: Analysis and Reporting

To ensure that the survey continued to be a process that allowed for longitudinal tracking of key pieces of information, the basic design of the 2001 survey followed previous national and provincial surveys on organized crime in terms of both the types of questions and the collection methods. This ensured that the information presented remains reliable and statistically valid as well as allowing for comparison to national results.

### Phase 1: Orientation, Questionnaire Design and Sampling

An attempt was made to follow as closely as possible, the wording of questions used on previous national and provincial surveys. Adjustments to the survey instrument were sensitive to benchmarking as well as time specific data needs. Research Innovations Inc. conducted pre-tests on the survey instrument to assess interview length, ensure flow patterns and to identify any difficulties in question wording or comprehension, or areas of respondent resistance. Any adjustments to the wording of the survey instrument were made through a consultative process between Research Innovation and the CISA Research Coordinator. A final copy of the questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.

Research Innovations completed a total of 1215 telephone interviews with Alberta citizens 18 years of age or over. Province-wide results provide a margin of error no greater than  $\pm 2.8\%$  in 19 out of 20 samples (the 95% confidence level). Individual regional results provide the following margins of error.

Calgary	361 interviews	$\pm 5.2\%$
Edmonton	286 interviews	$\pm 5.8\%$
Smaller Cities North	124 interviews	$\pm 8.8\%$
Smaller Cities South	91 interviews	$\pm 10.2\%$
Rural North	198 interviews	$\pm 7.0\%$
Rural South	155 interviews	$\pm 7.9\%$



Individual regions within the province were coded and the data were weighted to allow for comparisons and analysis.

The sampling involved randomly dialled phone numbers from the most recent white pages telephone directory. Quotas were established to ensure equal proportions of male and female respondents. In order to maximize the randomness of the sample, adult respondents having had the most recent birthday were selected for interviewing. To maximize the representation of the sample, a maximum of ten call back attempts were made to each telephone number chosen prior to excluding it from the sample.

## **Phase 2: Telephone Interviews**

The telephone interviews were conducted at Research Innovations' Call Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, from January 8, 2001 to January 24, 2000 by trained and experienced telephone interviewing personnel. To ensure quality and consistency, a minimum of 10% of all interviews were silently monitored in progress. The supervisor silently listened to the interviews while they were being conducted and checked responses as the interviewer was recording them. The on-line monitoring was made possible by programming the questionnaire into the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. The CATI system allows for simultaneous data collection and data entry. It additionally allows the interviewer to directly enter verbatim responses to open-ended questions.

## **Phase 3: Analysis and Reporting**

The remainder of this document will focus on the results of the 2001 Public Opinion Survey.

# **3. Survey Findings**

## **3.1 Demographics**

Basic demographic data was collected for the survey in order to ensure that the sample of respondents mirrors the population as a whole. A comparison of the demographic data is one measure used to assess the validity of the sample.





**Table 1: Survey Demographics**

Demographics	Province – Census 96	Survey Sample
Population 18 yrs +	1,963,000	1,215
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	49%	49%
Female	51%	51%
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Single	30%	24%
Married/Common-Law	54%	60%
Divorced/Separated	10%	11%
Widowed	5%	4%
<u>Age Groupings</u>		
20-29	20%	20%
30-39	26%	25%
40-49	22%	22%
50-59	13%	16%
60 +	19%	16%

### 3.2 Perception of Organized Crime

One question on the survey was designed to explore the public's perception of what types of crimes constitute "organized crime". Respondents were provided a list of 26 criminal activities that organized criminals have been known to engage in. For each option, respondents were asked to identify, in their opinion, whether the criminal activity was "definitely an example of organized crime", "possibly an example of organized crime" or "definitely not an example of organized crime". Additional criminal activities were added to this question in 2001 to more accurately reflect the array of activities found to be associated to organized crime groups.

Table 2 summarizes the public's responses over the last two surveys. The results indicate that to the public, organized crime is most frequently associated with and involved in drug related activities – namely trafficking and importing. This result is mirrored in other national surveys asking this type of question. Respondents clearly distinguished between high-level trafficking (89%) and importing (85%) from selling drugs on the street (56%).





**Table 2.**  
**Offences as an Example of Organized Crime**

Offence Type	"Definitely OC"	"Definitely OC"	"Possibly OC"	"Possibly OC"	"Definitely Not OC"	"Definitely Not OC"
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
High level drug trafficking	89%	89%	9%	10%	1%	1%
Drug importing	86%	85%	13%	13%	1%	1%
Running an illegal gambling operation	70%	70%	26%	25%	2%	4%
Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada	65%	66%	28%	28%	6%	5%
Firearms Smuggling	Not Asked	66%	Not Asked	30%	Not Asked	3%
Counterfeiting	64%	65%	31%	31%	3%	3%
Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts	60%	62%	33%	31%	5%	5%
Selling drugs on the street	57%	56%	36%	37%	7%	7%
Cigarette and liquor smuggling	56%	54%	36%	38%	7%	7%
Prostitution	48%	52%	42%	39%	9%	7%
Extortion	52%	46%	39%	43%	5%	6%
Trading in Endangered Species	Not Asked	44%	Not Asked	37%	Not Asked	15%
Credit card fraud	44%	43%	44%	45%	11%	11%
Sexual exploitation of children	43%	43%	42%	43%	13%	13%
Environmental Terrorism	Not Asked	39%	Not Asked	36%	Not Asked	21%
Pornography	36%	38%	45%	44%	17%	15%
Car theft	35%	35%	51%	52%	13%	13%
Anti-government Activism	Not Asked	30%	Not Asked	42%	Not Asked	22%
Internet Fraud	Not Asked	29%	Not Asked	52%	Not Asked	14%
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	26%	28%	41%	42%	30%	27%
Intimidation	25%	26%	54%	50%	18%	21%
Homicide	Not Asked	25%	Not Asked	55%	Not Asked	27%
Armed Robbery	Not Asked	24%	Not Asked	49%	Not Asked	27%
Cheating on the stock market	26%	22%	48%	50%	21%	22%
Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury	15%	17%	46%	49%	38%	33%
Residential Break, Enter, & Theft	Not Asked	16%	Not Asked	44%	Not Asked	39%

Running an illegal gambling operation, bringing illegal immigrants into Canada, firearms smuggling, counterfeiting, money laundering, selling drugs on the street,



cigarette and liquor smuggling, prostitution and extortion were still seen as definite examples of organized crime but by a smaller percentage of individuals.

It is interesting to note that the crimes most often associated to white collar or corporate crimes (credit card fraud, internet fraud, cheating on the stock market, illegally disposing of dangerous waste) were less likely to be identified as definite examples of organized crime.

Other criminal activities that were least likely to be seen as examples of organized crime include homicide, armed robbery, break enter and theft, intimidation and assault.

### 3.3 Public Perception of the Seriousness of Various Organized Criminal Activities

Respondents were also asked to rate the seriousness of each of the illegal activities identified in the previous question using a 10 point scale of crime seriousness, where a "10" is the most serious rating and a "1" is the least serious. While sexual exploitation of children was ranked 14<sup>th</sup> as an example of organized crime, it is perceived to be the most serious criminal activity of those identified, ranking higher than drug trafficking or drug importing. Similarly, while illegally disposing of hazardous waste was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> as an example of organized crime activity, it ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of serious types of crime.

These results are very similar to previous national survey results whereby drug related activities rank more serious than such activities as cigarette and liquor smuggling, or cheating on the stock exchange.

<b>Table 3: Seriousness of Criminal Activity</b>	<b>2000 Mean</b>	<b>2001 Mean</b>
Sexual exploitation of children	9.54	9.53
Homicide	Not Asked	9.39
High level drug trafficking	9.11	9.02
Drug importing	8.88	8.70
Armed robbery, including home invasions	Not Asked	8.66
Selling drugs on the street	8.45	8.27
Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury	8.30	8.25
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	8.09	8.17
Firearms smuggling	Not Asked	7.91
Extortion	7.89	7.83
Residential break, enter and theft	Not Asked	7.76
Environmental terrorism	Not Asked	7.69
Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada:	7.67	7.68
Pornography	7.64	7.62
Counterfeiting documents or money	7.60	7.60





<b>Table 3: Seriousness of Criminal Activity</b>	<b>2000 Mean</b>	<b>2001 Mean</b>
Trade in endangered species	Not Asked	7.59
Credit card fraud	7.73	7.50
Prostitution	7.35	7.38
Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts	7.35	7.16
Internet Fraud	Not Asked	7.06
Intimidation	6.99	6.97
Car theft	7.01	6.92
Cheating on the stock market	6.77	6.61
Running an illegal gambling operation	6.72	6.49
Anti-government activism	Not Asked	6.43
Cigarette and liquor smuggling	6.46	6.24

When perceived level of seriousness is addressed by geographic region of respondent, it becomes evident that the top three issues are consistent throughout the province. Variations that do exist are most likely a product of local experiences and geographical peculiarities. For example, the southern cities in the province ranked pornography as one of the top ten serious offences and could have something to do with proximity to the U.S. Border.

**Table 4: Top Ten Ranked Serious Offences by Region**

	<b>Calgary</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>	<b>Small Cities-North</b>	<b>Small Cities-South</b>	<b>Rural North</b>	<b>Rural South</b>
Sexual exploitation of children	1	1	1	1	1	1
Homicide	2	2	2	2	2	2
High level drug trafficking	3	3	3	3	3	3
Drug importing	4	5	5	5	4	4
Armed robbery, including home invasions	5	4	4	4	5	5
Selling drugs on the street	7	6	8	6	6	6
Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury	6	8	6	8	7	7
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	8	9	7	7	8	8
Extortion	10		9	10	9	9
Residential break, enter and theft		10	10		10	
Firearms Smuggling	9	7				
Pornography				9		10





Table 5 demonstrates the average score of respondents by region. The colour coding attached to the table is provided to identify the regional variations of seriousness. Red scores denote the highest mean (most serious) and blue scores denote the lowest mean (less serious)

Table 5: Mean Degree of Seriousness of Offences by Region

Offence Type	Calgary	Edmonton	Small Cities-North	Small Cities-South	Rural North	Rural South
Sexual exploitation of children	9.56	9.4	9.68	9.63	9.7	9.49
Homicide	9.4	9.33	9.59	9.35	9.41	9.48
High level drug trafficking	8.98	8.88	9.05	9.19	9.19	9.09
Drug importing	8.68	8.51	8.78	8.64	8.79	8.8
Armed robbery, including home invasions	8.6	8.57	8.88	8.71	8.71	8.63
Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury	8.33	8.02	8.53	8.16	8.3	8.25
Selling drugs on the street	8.18	8.04	8.23	8.43	8.41	8.35
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	8.17	7.93	8.36	8.24	8.11	8.24
Firearms smuggling	7.92	8.04	7.83	8.01	7.65	7.7
Extortion	7.83	7.63	8.02	8.03	7.81	7.85
Residential break, enter and theft	7.71	7.74	7.9	7.8	7.71	7.63
Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada:	7.68	7.62	7.78	7.68	7.71	7.54
Trade in endangered species	7.63	7.47	7.88	7.63	7.61	7.48
Environmental terrorism	7.62	7.64	7.88	7.9	7.69	7.39
Counterfeiting documents or money	7.5	7.49	7.59	7.65	7.7	7.69
Pornography	7.49	7.39	7.6	8.09	7.56	7.76
Credit card fraud	7.46	7.26	7.63	7.63	7.57	7.56
Prostitution	7.4	7.39	7.38	7.73	7.04	7.38
Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts	7.01	6.96	7.04	7.41	7.24	7.26
Intimidation	7	6.78	7.21	7.29	6.66	7.06
Internet Fraud	6.96	6.72	7.02	7.46	7.11	7.22
Car theft	6.77	6.82	6.95	6.99	6.88	6.95
Cheating on the stock market	6.58	6.45	6.46	7.1	6.54	6.57
Running an illegal gambling operation	6.41	6.5	6.43	6.68	6.36	6.39
Anti-government activism	6.32	6.3	6.54	6.89	6.45	6.33
Cigarette and liquor smuggling	6.27	6.06	6.14	6.41	6.07	6.4

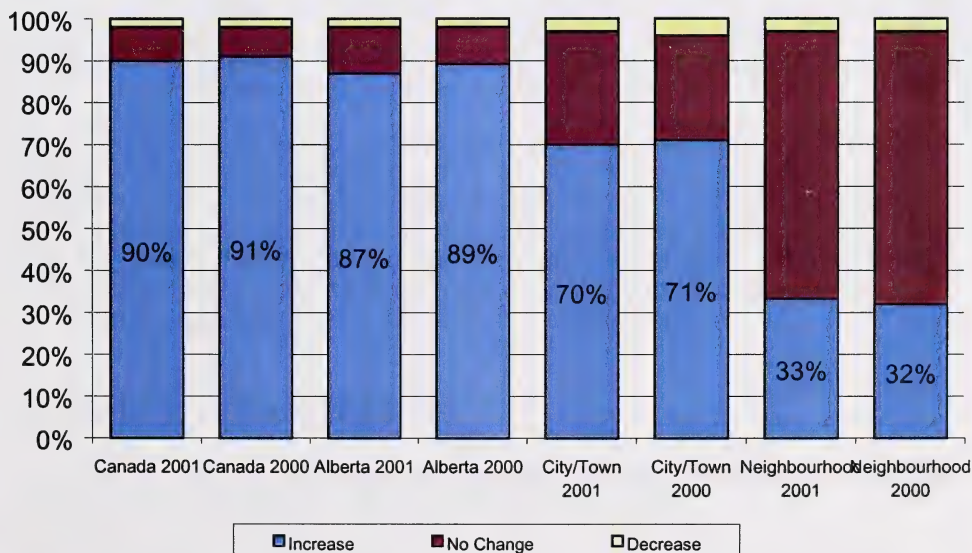


### 3.4 Perceptions of Changes in the Incidence of Organized Crime

Respondents were asked about the degree of change in organized crime in recent years. This question was asked in relation to four geographic parameters. On the national and provincial level, the majority of respondents see an increase in the amount of organized crime in recent years (83% and 80% respectively). As the question shifts to the city (66%) and neighbourhood (31%) level, the number of respondents who believe there to be an increase in organized crime diminishes dramatically. As can be expected from the violent incidents on the streets of Edmonton over the past two years, the respondents living in Edmonton had the highest percentage of perceived increase in organized crime at the city and neighbourhood levels.

In general, the closer to "home" the question of organized crime activity comes, the higher the probability that people see "no change" in organized crime activity. This finding very much supports the idea that people believe that organized crime is something that does not impact them personally.

**Graph 1: Perceived Change in Organized Crime**



As shown in Graph 1, there is a negligible decrease between the results of the 2000 survey and this years result in the overall perception of Albertans as to the





relative increase in organized crime occurring nationally, provincially, and within their city of residence or their neighbourhoods. However, when the results are broken out between respondents' residential regions, subtle differences and changes over the past two years emerge.

**Table 6: Perceived Change in Organized Crime by Region**

Region of Response:	Change	Organized Crime in Canada		Organized Crime in Alberta		Organized Crime in Your City or Town		Organized Crime in Your Neighbourhood	
		2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000
Calgary	Increase	87	87	81	94	76	83	35	31
	No Change	10	11	14	13	21	14	62	66
	Decrease	3	2	6	3	4	3	3	2
Edmonton	Increase	91	93	88	92	89	88	45	44
	No Change	8	5	11	7	9	8	50	55
	Decrease	1	2	2	2	2	4	5	1
Smaller Cities North	Increase	96	91	95	92	65	71	27	24
	No Change	4	7	5	6	34	29	73	75
	Decrease	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	1
Smaller Cities-South	Increase	91	90	92	89	66	70	34	31
	No Change	5	8	8	6	29	25	61	61
	Decrease	4	3	0	5	5	5	5	8
Rural North	Increase	93	90	92	89	53	46	28	27
	No Change	7	8	8	9	44	49	69	69
	Decrease	1	2	1	2	3	5	3	4
Rural South	Increase	88	97	85	92	52	48	23	28
	No Change	10	3	13	7	46	49	75	70
	Decrease	1	0	2	1	1	3	3	2

For both the 2000 and 2001 Surveys, there has been a significant difference in the perceived level of increase in organized crime seen at the city and neighbourhood level between Calgary and Edmonton. The consistently higher scores in Edmonton are most likely due to the street level violence associated to the drug wars in the city over the past two years. Respondents from smaller cities north, smaller cities south and rural north believed there to be a larger increase in organized crime in Alberta than the other regions.

### 3.5 Identification of Specific Groups

For the 2001 Survey respondents were asked to identify which specific organized crime groups were active in Alberta as well as in Canada.

It is interesting to note that there is no perceived difference in terms of the top five groups operating in either Canada or Alberta. A Slightly higher percentage of individuals mentioned Aboriginal Street Gangs for Alberta than for Canada. These results indicate that from the public's point of view there is little variation





between organized crime groups in the Province as compared to the rest of the Country.

**Table 7:**  
**Specific Organized Crime Groups Active in Alberta and Canada**

	Frequency Of Mentions	Percent
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs	582	28.8
Asian-based Organized Crime	513	25.4
Aboriginal Street Gangs	115	5.7
Italian Mafia (Traditional Organized Crime)	87	4.3
Eastern European Organized Crime Groups	52	2.6
Drug Trafficking	44	2.2
Youth Gangs	38	1.9
Jamaican Organized Crime	27	1.3
Prostitution	23	1.1
Ethnic Gangs	22	1.2
Middle Eastern Organized Crime Groups	22	1.1
Local Gangs	14	.7
White Supremacists	12	.6
Financial Organized Crime	11	.5
Government	10	.5
Environmental Groups	10	.5
Other	77	3.8
(None)	31	1.5
(Don't Know/Not Stated)	332	16.4
Total	2022	100.0

Due to multiple responses there are more than 1215 mentions in both Table 7 and 8.

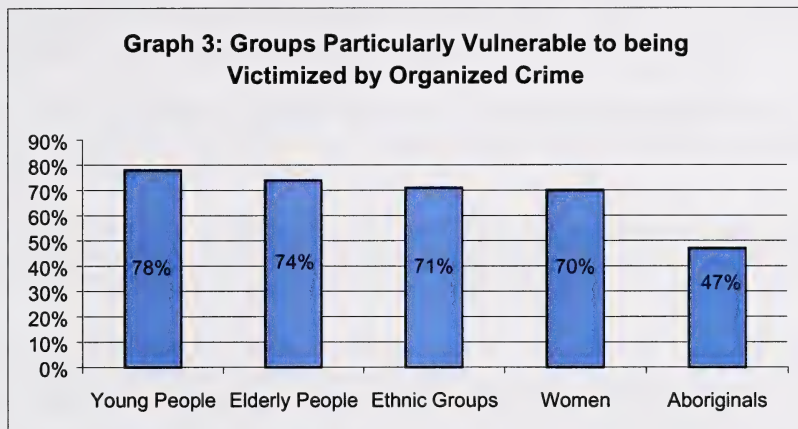
**Table 8:**  
**Specific Organized Crime Groups Active in Canada**

	Frequency Of Mentions	Percent
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs	656	29.1
Asian-based Organized Crime	499	22.2
Italian Mafia (Traditional Organized Crime)	223	9.9
Aboriginal Street Gangs	129	5.7
Eastern European Organized Crime Groups	108	4.8
Drug Trafficking	38	1.7
Jamaican Organized Crime	33	1.5
Immigrant Smuggling Groups	31	1.4
Ethnic Gangs	22	1.0
Middle Eastern Organized Crime Groups	22	1.0
Youth Gangs	14	.6
Government	13	.6
Environmental Groups	11	.5
Prostitution	9	.4
White Supremacists	9	.4
Financial Organized Crime	9	.4
Other	76	3.3
(None)	30	1.3
(Don't Know/Not Stated)	320	14.2
Total	2176	100



### 3.6 Perceptions of Particular Groups Victimized

Respondents were told that some groups of individuals are victimized more than others by organized crime and were asked to state whether they thought certain groups were particularly vulnerable. Respondents were asked about young people under the age of 18, elderly people, Native Canadians, women, and members of ethnic groups. As illustrated in Graph 3, the young and the elderly were identified as the most vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime.



Other groups believed to be particularly vulnerable include: New immigrants; Low-income individuals; People with disabilities; and Business organizations.

### 3.7 Responding to Organized Crime

Respondents were asked their opinion concerning the degree to which they believe their local police agency is effectively dealing with organized crime.

**Table 9:  
Local Police Agency Effectively Dealing With Organized Crime**

2001 Results 2000 Results	Calgary	Edmonton	Smaller Cities North	Smaller Cities South	Rural North	Rural South	Total
<b>Total Agreement</b>	75% 78%	67% 65%	73% 83%	81% 68%	67% 66%	67% 67%	71% 71%
<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	8% 6%	9% 5%	8% 5%	7% 8%	7% 7%	7% 6%	8% 6%
<b>Total Disagreement</b>	15% 15%	23% 28%	19% 12%	13% 24%	24% 25%	24% 26%	20% 22%





In general, 71% of respondents believe that their local police agency deals effectively with organized crime. The residents of the smaller southern cities have had the greatest increase in confidence and in fact have the highest confidence rating from all five regions. These cities had experienced several high profile drug related cases and a triple homicide over the past year. The media coverage of these incidents and the positive outcome for police could have contributed to such a large increase in perceived police effectiveness. Conversely, the decrease in confidence in smaller cities north could be related to the numerous unsolved homicides in the region.

Calgary has demonstrated a slight decrease in perceived police effectiveness but continues to have more confidence in their local police agency than Edmonton to deal with organized crime issues.

The city of Edmonton has been plagued over the last several years with drug and gang related violence. Confidence has risen slightly over the past year but still remains lower or the same as other regions in the Province.

It is interesting to note that when compared to the 1999 Alberta Justice survey results on the question of confidence with the courts and legal system, the results indicate that 72% of Albertans had confidence in the courts and legal system. Given the most recent challenges to Bill C95, and the stresses these charges are causing the court system, confidence in the courts and confidence in the police to deal with organized crime could very likely be interrelated if not interdependent. This would explain the similarity in results on these two questions.

### **3.8 Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime**

A new question on the survey this year is on effective methods to reduce organized crime. For comparative purposes many of the same list of options were presented to respondents on this survey as they were to the respondents of the 1999 Alberta Justice Survey. This comparison should further differentiate the public's opinion between general crime and organized crime.

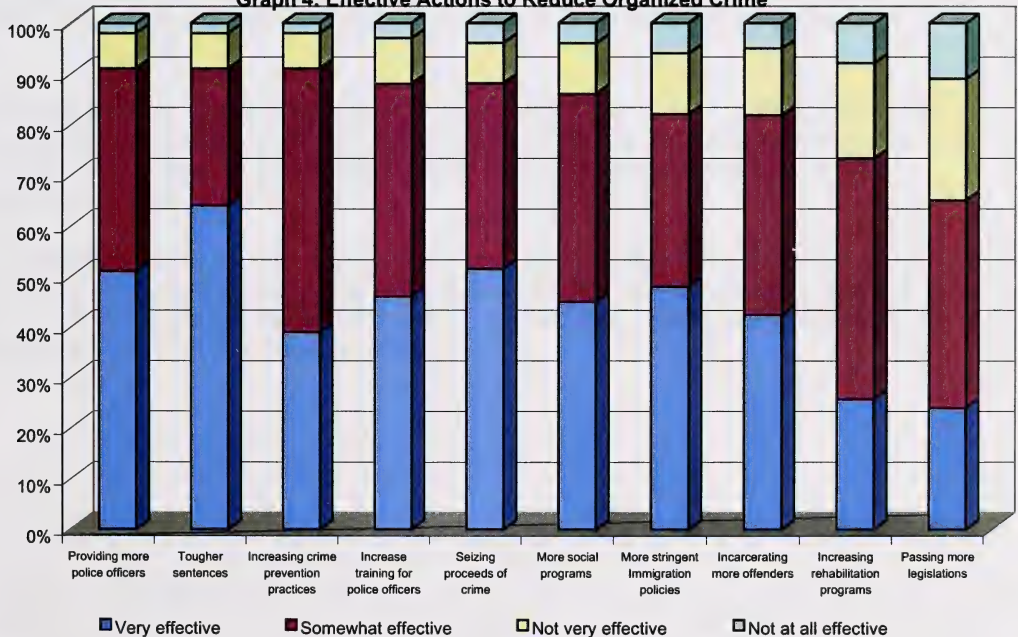
When we compare responses, it is evident that respondents do not view social or rehabilitation programs to be as effective when applied to organized crime as when applied to crime in general. Alternatively, respondents felt that providing more police officers; tougher sentences and passing more legislation would be more effective against organized crime than to crime in general.

Graph 4 ranks the various actions in terms of overall perceived effectiveness.



**Table 10: Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime**

Action	OC Survey Results		Alberta Justice 1999 Results	
	Effective	Not Effective	Effective	Not effective
Increasing crime prevention practices	91%	9%	87%	12%
Providing more police officers	91%	9%	86%	14%
Increase training for police officers	88%	12%	N/A	N/A
Incarcerating more offenders	81%	18%	79%	19%
Tougher sentences	91%	9%	87%	11%
Increasing rehabilitation programs	74%	27%	78%	21%
More stringent Immigration policies	82%	18%	N/A	N/A
Passing more legislations	65%	35%	57%	40%
Increasing more social programs such as education, job training, drug treatment, recreation and job creation	86%	14%	91%	9%
Seizing proceeds of crime	86%	11%	N/A	N/A

**Graph 4: Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime**





## **4.0 Conclusions**

As the second provincial survey on organized and serious crime, these findings will assist CISA, as well as individual police agencies, in gauging public perception about and support for organized crime related initiatives.

The results tend to suggest that while Albertans differentiate certain organized crime activities from serious crime activities, people primarily associate importing and trafficking of drugs to organized crime. This may be more a reaction to cultural and media stereotypes than by hard information. Getting the media to focus on presenting accurate crime information rather than entertaining the public would further assist the public in understanding the far-reaching effects of organized crime in their neighbourhoods.

The public believes that organized crime is increasing at the national, provincial and municipal levels far more than at the neighbourhood level. Respondents do not necessarily attribute neighbourhood crime with organized crime.

The perceived abilities of police agencies to effectively deal with organized crime is influenced, in part, on the media reports of incidents and the public's interpretation of them.

Respondents believed that getting more police officers on the streets, getting the courts to give out tougher sentences and crime prevention programs were the most effective ways to deal with organized crime. The passing of more legislation was seen as the least effective strategy.

While "Organized Crime" is seen to have increased significantly over the years, both in terms of media reporting on crime and political attention, the term is generally not well understood and its impact is not appreciated. This distortion could quite conceivably give organized crime groups an advantage.



1. Please indicate whether you think each crime is: definitely an example of an organized crime, possibly an example of an organized crime, or definitely not an example of an organized crime.

- 1 Definitely an example of an organized crime
- 2 Possibly an example of an organized crime
- 3 Definitely not an example of an organized crime
- 4 (Don't Know)
- 5 (Refused)

- A. Cigarette and liquor smuggling
- B. Drug importing
- C. Selling drugs on the street
- D. Running an illegal gambling operation
- E. Cheating on the stock market
- F. Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts
- G. Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada
- H. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste
- I. Car theft
- J. High level drug trafficking
- K. Credit card fraud
- L. Internet Fraud
- M. Prostitution
- N. Extortion
- O. Intimidation
- P. Pornography (IF ASKED, SPECIFY: adult)
- Q. Counterfeiting documents or money
- R. Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury
- S. Sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography
- T. Residential break, enter and theft
- U. Armed robbery, including home invasions
- V. Homicide
- W. Firearms smuggling
- X. Trade in endangered species
- Y. Environmental terrorism
- Z. Anti-government activism





## Appendix 1

## ALBERTA ANNUAL PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON CRIME

2. Please indicate how serious you think each of these crimes are, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means the most serious crime (MSC), and 1 means the least serious crime (LSC). Using a scale like the one found below, what score would you give to:

A. Cigarette and liquor smuggling:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B. Drug importing:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C. Selling drugs on the street:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D. Running an illegal gambling operation:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E. Cheating on the stock market:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
F. Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
G. Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I. Car theft:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J. High level drug trafficking:.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
K. Credit card fraud.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
L. Internet Fraud.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
M Prostitution.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
N. Extortion.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
O. Intimidation.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
P. Pornography (IF ASKED, SPECIFY: adult).....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Q. Counterfeiting documents or money.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
R. Assault, resulting in physical or emotional injury.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
S. Sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
T Residential break, enter and theft.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
U Armed robbery, including home invasions.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
V Homicide.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W Firearms smuggling.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
X Trade in endangered species.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y Environmental terrorism.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Z. Anti-government activism.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. Over the past few years, has there been a large increase, a small increase, no change, a small decrease or a large decrease in the amount of organized crime in:

- A. Canada
- B. Alberta
- C. In your city or town
- D. In your neighbourhood?



4. In your opinion, what specific organized crime groups are active in
- A. Alberta?
  - B. Canada?
5. Some groups of individuals are victimized more than others by organized crime. In your opinion, which of the following groups are particularly vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime?
- a. Young people under 18 years old
  - b. Elderly people
  - c. Aboriginals
  - d. Women
  - e. Members of ethnic groups
  - f. Are any other groups particularly vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime? (IF YES, SPECIFY)
6. How effective do you believe the following actions will be in reducing the level of organized crime in Alberta?

<b>Choices</b>	<b>Very effective</b>	<b>Somewhat effective</b>	<b>Not very effective</b>	<b>Not at all effective</b>	<b>Refused, Don't Know</b>
A. Increasing crime prevention practices	5	4	3	2	1
B. Providing more police officers	5	4	3	2	1
C. Increased training for police officers	5	4	3	2	1
D. Incarcerating more offenders	5	4	3	2	1
E. Tougher sentencing	5	4	3	2	1
F. Increasing rehabilitation programs	5	4	3	2	1
G. More stringent Immigration policies	5	4	3	2	1
H. Passing more legislation	5	4	3	2	1
I. Increasing social programs such as education, job training, drug treatment, recreation, and job creation	5	4	3	2	1
J. Seizing the proceeds of crime	5	4	3	2	1





7. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: You have a lot of confidence in your local police agency to effectively deal with organized crime?

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Somewhat agree
- 3 Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 Somewhat disagree
- 5 Strongly disagree
- 6 (Don't Know/Not Stated)

The last few questions will help us group the information as part of our statistical analysis. Again, all the information you provide will be kept completely anonymous.

8. What is your current employment status? :

- 1 Employed Full-time outside of home
- 2 Employed Part time outside the home
- 3 Self-employed from home
- 4 a Homemaker
- 5 Retired
- 6 a Student
- 7 Disabled
- 8 or Unemployed
- 9 (Refused)

9. What is your highest level of education?

1. Some grade or high school
2. Graduated from high school
3. Some technical school or college education
4. Graduated from technical school or college
5. Some university
- 6 or Graduated from university
- 7 (Refused)

10. What is your current marital status?

- 1 Single and never married
- 2 Married, or living common-law
3. Widowed
4. or Divorced or Separated
- 5 (Refused)



12. What is the total annual income before taxes, of all persons living in your household? Is it (**READ LIST**)

- 1 Under \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000 to less than \$15,000
- 3 \$15,000 to less than \$20,000
- 4 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 5 \$30,000 to less than \$40,000
- 6 \$40,000 to less than \$50,000
- 7 \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 8 \$60,000 to less than \$70,000
- 9 \$70,000 to less than \$80,000
- 10 \$80,000 and over
- 11 (Don't Know)
- 12 (Refused)

That's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for participating!

1. When the following items are included in the public accountancy report, the following items are included:

1. General Fund
2. Special Fund
3. Capital Fund
4. Reserve Fund
5. Debt Fund
6. Pension Fund
7. Other Fund
8. Other Fund
9. Other Fund
10. Other Fund
11. Other Fund
12. Other Fund
13. Other Fund
14. Other Fund
15. Other Fund

That the following items are included in the public accountancy report:





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